MARVEL

39

WOLVERINE® ORIGINS

WAY
EATON
HENNESSEY
TROY

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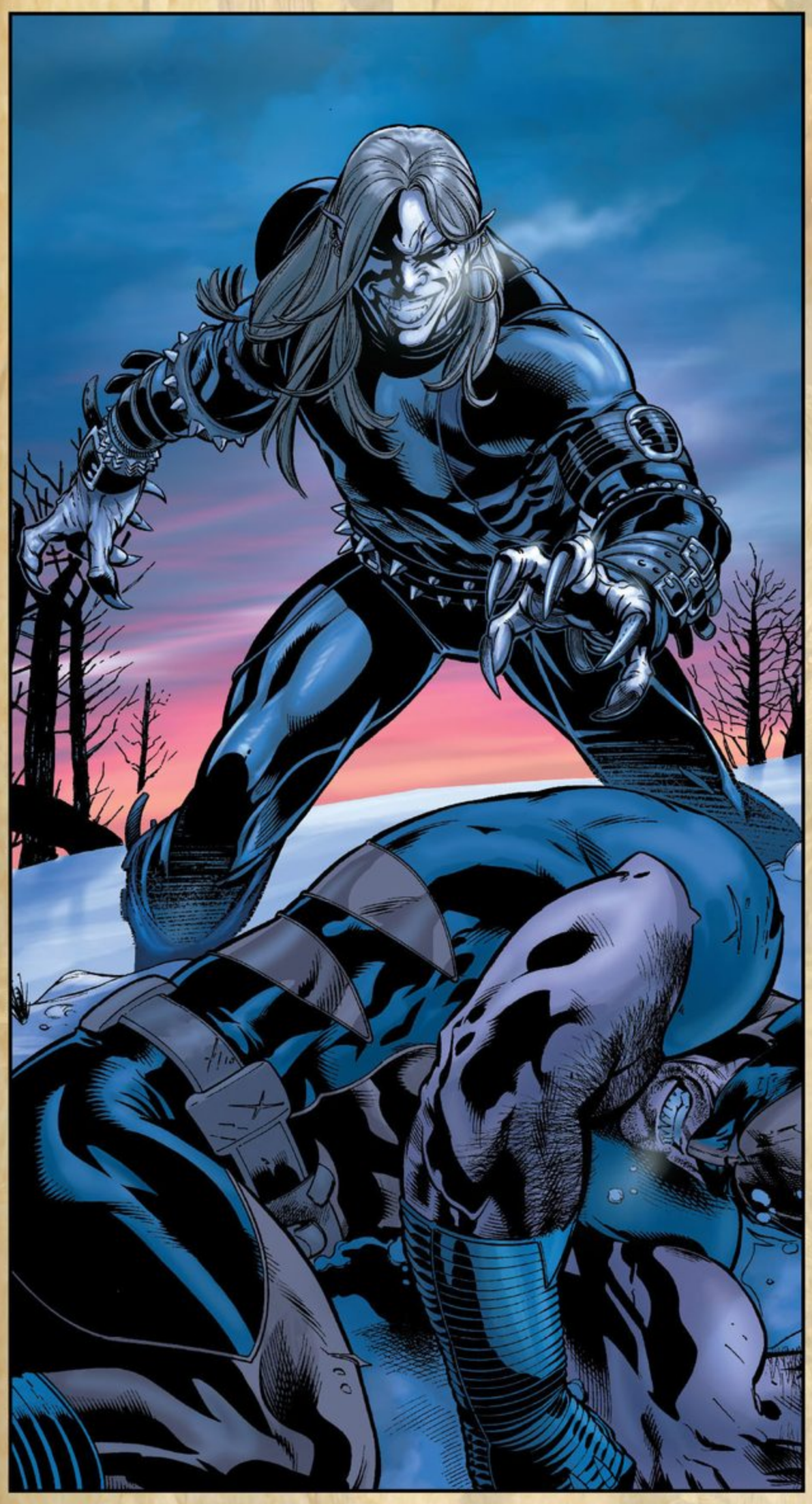
WOLVERINE
ORIGINS



The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Recently Logan discovered that he has been secretly manipulated his entire life by a mysterious figure known only as Romulus. Logan has now set off on a mission of bloody revenge and follows one of Romulus's enforcers, the disfigured man-mountain known as Victor Hudson to Russia, hoping to pick up Romulus's trail. But instead he finds himself locked in a prison with none other than the deadly Russian mutant Omega Red. Logan is in possession of the Carbonadium Synthesizer, the only device that can save Omega Red from the radiation poisoning that's slowly killing him, and Red's more than happy to go through Logan to get it.

The pair battle each other for hours until finally a victorious and badly wounded Wolverine staggers out into the snow… where Romulus's right-hand man, Wild Child, has been waiting for him…

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HUGHESOVKA IRONWORKS #5; CENTRAL RUSSIA:

CAN YOU READ *RUSSIAN*, WOLVERINE? BETCHA *CAN*...

ME? NOPE.

BUT *THAT* GUY *COULD*...

HE'S THE ONE WHO SHOWED ME HOW TO TURN THIS THING ON, WORK ALL THE CONTROLS AN' STUFF. TOLD ME THAT ONCE THIS NEEDLE GETS TO ABOUT *HERE*, WELL...

...THAT'S WHEN YOU GO IN.

FEET FIRST.

GUYS LIKE US, MAN...WHAT CAN I SAY? *WE'RE HARD TO KILL.*

BUT I'M PRETTY SURE *DUNKING YOU IN A CAULDRON OF MOLTEN IRON'S* A GOOD PLACE TO START. YOUR FLESH, OF COURSE, WILL BURN AWAY IN JUST A FEW SECONDS...

THEN YOUR *BONES...*

....UNTIL *EVENTUALLY,* ALL THAT'LL BE LEFT IS THAT *ADAMANTIUM* OF YOURS.

WHICH, WHEN THIS THING *COOLS,* IS GONNA BE PRETTY MUCH...

...*STUCK.*

ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO WRITE ON THE SIDE, THERE? A, UH-- WHATTA YA CALL IT--*EPITAPH?*

@#$% YOU, WILDCHILD.

HMM...

...I LIKE IT.

Y'KNOW, IF ALL OF YOU ARE GONNA BE THIS EASY, I MIGHT JUST--

YOU MEAN...

...YOU HAVEN'T *FIGURED IT OUT* YET?

ONLY THING I'VE *FIGURED* IS THERE AIN'T NO WAY IT'S A *COINCIDENCE* THAT ME, *OMEGA RED* AN' *WILDCHILD* ARE ALL IN THE *SAME PLACE* AT THE *SAME TIME.*

WHATTA YA MEAN, *ALL OF US?*

FOR SOME REASON, *ROMULUS* IS PITTIN' US ALL AGAINST--

--US.

ALL

OF

US

ROMULUS

PART THREE

THERE'S ONLY ROOM FOR *ONE* AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN...AND *ROMULUS?* HE'S GETTING TOO *OLD* FOR THIS.

IT'S TIME TO NAME A SUCCESSOR-- BUT *FIRST*, THEY HAVE TO PROVE THEY'RE *WORTHY*.

BY KILLIN' OFF ALL THE OTHERS.

OBVIOUSLY, YOU'VE GOT QUITE A *LEAD* ON THE REST OF US...

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE...

EVER SINCE I GOT MY MEMORIES BACK...

...WAS WHAT *HE* WANTED ME TO DO.

I AM WHAT YOU WILL BECOME.

I THOUGHT I WAS FREE.

BUT THIS WHOLE TIME...

...I WAS JUST A *PAWN.*

NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

YOU *REALLY DIDN'T KNOW*, HUH?

WOW, THAT'S--

UH-OH.

'FRAID I GOT SOME *MORE* BAD NEWS FOR YA...

TAP! TAP!

SEE, I THOUGHT *OMEGA RED* WAS THE LAST TO KNOW...AN' GET *THIS*-- *HE WASN'T EVEN INTERESTED!*

CHANK!

NOT UNTIL WE TOLD HIM WE'D GIVE HIM *THIS* THING...

WHAT IS THIS, *ANYWAY?*

KARDOMM!

IT IS MINE.

AND I HAVE COME FOR WHAT BELONGS TO ME!

WILDCHILD'S PLAN IS TO DROP ME IN FEET FIRST. MY PLAN AIN'T MUCH BETTER.

HANDS FIRST.

THIS IS GONNA BE BAD.

AN' EVEN KNOWIN' THAT, ONCE I'M OUTTA HERE, I'LL EVENTUALLY *HEAL*...

...DON'T MAKE IT ANY BETTER.

HYEAAHH!

ONE DOWN...

FOOL! YOU THINK THAT YOU--

--WILL BE THE ONE TO KILL THE WOLVERINE?

KROKK!

IT IS NOT A THING THAT CAN BE DONE IN A DAY, CHILD...

...BUT SOMETHING YOU MUST COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO DOING.

TAKE THIS FROM ONE WHO KNOWS.

NO!

GO AHEAD-- RUN! I'LL FIND YOU AGAIN!

I'LL FIND YOU AN' I'LL RIP YOU TO &@#$ING PIECES, YOU SON OF A--

SCHSCHSCHS

SHUKK!

IF YOU COULD, YOU WOULD *BEG* FOR YOUR LIFE NOW, *YES?*

BE THANKFUL I LET YOU DIE WITH SOME *HONOR.*

FWROOM

DO SVIDANIYA, WILDCHILD.

ST. PETERSBURG, 2 DAYS LATER:

WHEN *PROFESSOR X* BROUGHT ME INTO THE *X-MEN*, HE *ERASED MY MEMORIES*. EVERYTHING THAT ROMULUS DID TO ME FOR ALL THOSE YEARS--ALL OF THE *CONTROL MECHANISMS* HE HAD BUILT INTO MY MIND--*DISAPPEARED*.

ROMULUS COULDN'T USE ME TO HIT HIS TARGETS ANYMORE, TO CLEAN UP HIS MESSES. I WAS BEYOND HIS REACH.

WHEN THE MEMORIES CAME BACK, SO DID EVERYTHING ELSE.

EVERYTHING I'VE DONE *SINCE* THEN--AN' EVERYTHING I HAD *PLANNED* TO DO--HAS BEEN EXACTLY WHAT ROMULUS *WANTS* ME TO DO.

INCLUDING KILLING *HIM*.

BEFORE I LEFT THE STATES, I ASKED AN OLD FRIEND TO USE HER CONNECTIONS TO PLANT THIS FOR ME. I DIDN'T WANT ROMULUS TO KNOW I HAD IT. I DIDN'T WANNA GIVE HIM TIME TO DEFEND *AGAINST* IT.

BUT NOW, KNOWIN' WHAT I KNOW...

I WON'T KILL FOR YOU ANYMORE, ROMULUS.

I'M DONE.

BLACK WIDOW.

DID YOU RECEIVE THE PACKAGE?

YEAH...AN' THANKS, NATASHA. I APPRECIATE IT. BUT I NEED YA TO DO ANOTHER FAVOR FOR ME.

OF COURSE.

I NEED YA TO GET RID OF THIS THING. I WANT YA TO LOSE IT-- UNDERSTAND?

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE AROUND ANYBODY.

INCLUDIN' ME.

CONSIDER IT DONE.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU-- SOMETHING THAT MY MOSCOW CONTACTS PASSED ON TO ME.

WHAT, THAT OMEGA RED'S CLOSIN' IN ON ME?

I SEE... OF COURSE, YOU ALREADY KNOW.

YEAH, WELL...

...I HAD A *FEELIN'*.

CLK

YOU GOT WHAT YA WANTED, RED-- *THE CARBONADIUM SYNTHESIZER IS YOURS.*

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.

YES, I GOT WHAT I WANTED.

NOW, I WANT *EVERYTHING ELSE.*

YOU WANNA BE THE NEXT ROMULUS? GO AHEAD.

I AIN'T GONNA FIGHT YA FOR IT.

AH, I SEE. BUT *TELL* ME...

...DO YOU THINK YOUR *SON* WILL FEEL THE SAME WAY?

NO, RED. I DON'T. I THINK HE'LL FIGHT YA WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT FOR IT...WHICH, AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW YORK*, IS A HELLUVA LOT.

THEN AGAIN, YOU'VE FINALLY GOT THE C-SYNTH. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THIS POWERFUL BEFORE, OR THIS DANGEROUS. MAYBE HE'LL TAKE YOU DOWN, MAYBE YOU'LL TAKE HIM DOWN. IT'S TOO CLOSE TO CALL.

BUT THE FACT O' THE MATTER IS, I CAN'T STOMACH IT EITHER WAY.

I AIN'T GONNA LET YOU GO AFTER MY SON, RED. I CAN'T. AN' THAT MEANS TAKIN' CARE O' YOU HERE. MY WAY.

MENTIONIN' MY SON WAS A MISTAKE, RED.

*REFERRING TO EVENTS IN WOLVERINE: ORIGINS #36.

ROMULUS'S WAY.

I WAS GONNA LET YOU LIVE.

HA!

YOU ARE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE ME? I HAVE TOYED WITH YOU, WOLVERINE. I HAVE CODDLED YOU LIKE A BABY. YOUR ADAMANTIUM CLAWS ARE NOTHING TO ME.

AND YET, YOU THINK YOU CAN DEFEAT ME...

...WITH A BROKEN SWORD?

GO AHEAD. TRY.

WHAT IS IT YOU AMERICANS SAY? AH, YES...

GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT.

SOME PEOPLE MIGHT SAY THAT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

AFTER ALL THE GALLONS OF EACH OTHER'S BLOOD THAT WE'VE SPILLED...

AFTER ALL THE PAIN AN' SUFFERIN' AN' *HATE* THAT'S *BROUGHT* US TO THIS POINT...

...OMEGA RED DESERVES BETTER.

WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A *LONG TIME*, RED.

WHEN'RE YOU GONNA REMEMBER THAT I'M *CANADIAN?*

THOSE PEOPLE WOULD BE WRONG.

717

SSHOK!

WHAT...

IS *HAPPENING*... TO ME...?

YER *DYIN'*.

THAT THING STICKIN' OUTTA YER HEART IS CALLED THE MURAMASA BLADE.

IT'S *EVERY BLACK THING INSIDE O' ME*, BOILED DOWN AN' MADE *HARDER. SHARPER.* MORE *DEADLY.*

IT KILLS *EVERYTHING.*

AN' EVERY*ONE.*

EVEN... ROMULUS...?

YEAH

EVEN HIM.

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

NEXT